

# First Thoughts...

This month marks the birthday of our country and offers an opportunity to think about our freedoms. This nation has been blessed in so many ways, and Baptists have taken a leading role especially in the area of religious freedom.

Baptists have been champions of religious liberty from our beginnings as a denomination. Historically, we have been on the forefront as advocates for the separation of church and state.

In his classic work "Four Fragile Freedoms," Walter Shurden put it this way: "RELIGIOUS FREEDOM is the historic Baptist affirmation of freedom OF religion, freedom FOR religion, and freedom FROM religion, insisting that Ceasar is not Christ and Christ is not Ceasar."

One of the most significant presentations of this Baptist principle came during a sermon on May 16, 1920 from the east steps of the National Capitol Building. Dr. George Truett, pastor of FBC Dallas, said that Jesus' word about rendering to Caesar what was Caesar's and unto God what is God's is one of "the most revolutionary and history making utterances that ever fell from those lips divine. That utterance, once for all, marked the divorcement of church and state."

Baptists have had many disagreements (to put it mildly) through the years. But, it's important to celebrate our heritage as it relates to freedom of religion. Freedom of religion is a founding principle of our nation. We should remember that faith must be free, it cannot be coerced.

On a related note, Baptists have affirmed the freedom of the local church. I'm grateful our church recognizes this through our mission endeavors, ministries, and selection of God-called men and women to be deacons and ministerial staff. Through our voluntary cooperation with associational, state, and national Baptist entities, we still maintain and practice local church autonomy.

We're in the middle of the summer and folks are taking advantage of the time for much needed breaks from their routines. For this reason we won't be having Adult Bible Study/Prayer Meeting in July (I'll begin a new study series next month!) We will gather for our monthly business meeting on the 19th. I'm also grateful to have Jason, Amanda, and Kris taking on some preaching assignments this month as well.

Let's remember the work of the church continues in the summer months with our prayers, participation, and financial support.

Pastor Danny

## Holiday Closings

The Church Office, Family Life Center,  
WEE Ministry and Christian Service Center  
will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th.

## Teacher Dedication & LifeGroups Promotion

Sunday, August 6

Teacher Dedication in both services 8:30 a.m. & 10:40 a.m.  
LifeGroups at 9:30 a.m.

## Youth Event

Wed., July 19  
5:00 p.m.

Parents will be responsible for transportation to and from the Fair unless their youth drives themselves. Kris will meet them at 5:00 p.m. at the ticket booth to give them their wristband. Once youth have picked up their wristband they are on their own for the fair activities (no chaperones). The wristband is provided by the church. Youth need to bring money to eat or eat before they arrive.



## Youth at Top Golf



## Youth Ignite

Resumes  
Wednesday, August 9  
5:30 p.m.  
FLC Youth Room  
Grades 6-12



## Atlanta Braves

Church-wide Trip  
Thursday, July 20  
Leave FBC at 7:00 a.m.  
Game is at 12:20 p.m.  
All tickets have been claimed.

## C.S.C. Report - May

Served 234 individuals  
38 Children, 125 Adults,  
71 Seniors  
6921 food items were distributed.  
622 clothing items  
113 miscellaneous items such as  
kleenex, toilet paper, soap,  
toothpaste, laundry and  
dishwashing detergents and adult  
incontinence items.

## Women's Bible Study Women of the Bible

Mondays  
July 10 & 17  
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Church Parlor  
No Cost, No Book  
Refreshments Provided  
Women of all ages invited!

- July 10 - Study of "Rahab" led by Beth Green
- July 17 - Study of "Miriam" led by Vicki Violette

## 4th Annual Anderson County Community Resource Fair

The More We  
Know  
The More Love  
We Show

Sunday, August 20  
12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Family Life Center, Gym  
Find the resources you need!  
Eat free lunch while learning  
about the wonderful services  
taking place in our community!  
Helping agencies and ministries  
will set up tables with  
info and freebies.  
Children's activities  
will also be provided.

## Needed: Towers Craft Leader

Many thanks to Cheryl & Ann Broome for leading the well-loved Towers Craft Ministry for so many years. We are looking for a leader to plan, prepare, & implement this monthly craft at the Towers, along with other volunteers. This craft time can be scheduled whenever convenient for you (day, night, weekday, weekend). Please prayerfully consider, and keep this ministry in prayer. If interested, please let Amanda (865-924-0420) know.



## FBC Kids Resumes

Wednesday, August 9

## Kids Church

Sundays during the 10:40 a.m.  
Service in the Church Library.

- Lakefront Splash Pad  
Friday, July 7  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

- South Clinton Park  
& Pizza Party  
Friday, July 21  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible School Attendance: 108  
57 from the Community & 51 from WEE Ministry



## In Christian Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Chloe Ann Ward** (6/13).

## Memorial Flowers

The flowers on the Sanctuary altar, July 2 are in loving memory of **Freda Widener**, whose birthday was July 11, given by the Widener Family.

The flowers in the altar on Sunday, July 9, are in loving memory of **Wanda Abner's** birthday, July 14, given by the Abner Family.

The flowers on the altar Sunday, July 16 are in loving memory of **R.L. and Wilma Daugherty's** Wedding Anniversary which was July 16, given by Terri and Stuart Brabston and family.

The flowers in the sanctuary on July 23 are in loving memory of **Maxine Ownby's** birthday, July 26, given by Terri King, Melissa Flanagan, and Anne Marie Ivey.

## From the Pulpit

### Sundays

**8:30 a.m.** Family Life Center

**10:40 a.m.** Sanctuary

July 02 Pastor Danny (10:40 only)

July 09 Rev. Jason Taylor

July 16 Rev. Amanda Taylor

July 23 Pastor Danny

July 30 Kris Hicks

## Combined Service

### Sunday, July 2

**10:40 a.m.**

Sanctuary

The Lord's Supper will be observed.

## LifeGroups

**Sundays @ 9:30 a.m.**

We have LifeGroups for all ages.

## Deacons Meeting

**Tuesday, July 11**

**5:30 p.m.**

Lower Auditorium

## Wednesdays

**6:30 p.m.**

Lower Auditorium

July 05 No Adult Bible Study

July 12 No Adult Bible Study

July 19 Business Meeting

No Choir Rehearsal

July 26 No Adult Bible Study

## Business Meeting

**Wednesday, July 19**

**6:30 p.m.**

Lower Auditorium

## Spirit Sisters

(Widows Support Group)

Meetings are the **1st Monday, monthly at 6:00 p.m.** in the FLC Hearth Room.

*They will meet on July 3 for their monthly meeting. There will be no social outings on the third Monday in July or August.*

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Tuesdays**

**5:30 p.m.**

Family Life Center - Level 2

## Encore Seminar

**"Don't Be Scammed!"**

**Thursday, August 17**

**12:00 p.m.**

Box Lunch: \$10.00

Presented by Lesley Swann, Human Risk Analyst with Baker Donelson RSVP to the Church Office.

Learn some of the ways that people may try to steal your money or identification by phone, mail, email, or online, and learn strategies to prevent this from happening to you.

## Online & On the Air

Sunday Services are online via the First Baptist Clinton, TN Facebook page or YouTube channel. The Traditional Service is aired on WYSH

AM 1380 and WYSH FM 101.1 at 11:00 a.m., Sundays, and is on a 1 week delay.

## May Financial Summary

Budget Receipts	\$ 105,635
2023 Receipts/Wkly Avg.	\$ 16,647
2023 Weekly Budget Req.	\$ 17,786
Budget Expense	\$ 78,053
May Deficit/Income	\$ 27,582
2023 Deficit/Income	(\$ 42,943)
TOTAL May 31	(\$ 15,361)

## Business Meeting Report

The May Financials and Minutes were approved. The recommendations from the Ordination Council to the church to ordain Dr. Vicki Violette and Lauren Neal to the Gospel Ministry were approved.

## Isaiah 117

changing the way foster care begins

**Stock the Pantry Drive Breakfast Event** for the Isaiah 117 House Anderson County **Saturday, July 22**

**8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

At First Baptist Church— Family Life Center  
Breakfast: \$10 per person at the door  
Sponsored by Apple Blossom Café  
They will be collecting personal hygiene items. See the insert for more details.

## New Deacon: Susan Hammons

The oldest of six kids, I was born in Columbus, Indiana, in 1948. In 1967 I graduated from Caldwell County High School in Princeton, KY.

I was a buyer at Boeing Oak Ridge for about 23 years and transferred to Babcock and Wilcox when they took over the project. Retirement has provided time for Bible study, crochet and gardening.

Mike and I met at Central Baptist Church in Oak Ridge and married in 1980. My three children were young and we raised them together. The children are all married and we have seven grown grandchildren and have a great grandchild on the way.

We first attended First Baptist Clinton while Sam Dean was the pastor. I taught GAs and Bible Buddies and loved it. I also helped out in the children's Sunday school. I confess that I probably learned more than the kids.

In the early 1980s I began to hunger for understanding of the Bible. A friend suggested Christian radio and it was amazing to hear the teachings of John MacArthur, Dr. Charles Stanley and J. Vernon McGee. That hunger is still very much alive in me. Another friend invited me to Bible Study Fellowship and this year's study on the Old Testament prophets has been challenging and rewarding.

We have found First Baptist Clinton to be full of love and opportunity to serve. Our LifeGroup is very close and the Prayer Shawl girls are like sisters to me.

I feel honored and humbled to be called to serve as a deacon. I believe that the Lord has a plan and He invites us to participate in that plan. My greatest desire is to serve Him and finish life in a way that pleases Him.



ONLINE GIVING

THE FRIENDLY GUIDE - PO BOX 268 - CLINTON, TN - (865) 457-9353  
POSTMASTER: Please send change of address notices to The Friendly Guide  
PO Box 268, Clinton, TN 37717, Friendly Guide (USPS# 210-520) published monthly  
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paid at Clinton, TN

# IN THE Heart OF CLINTON

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

FRIENDLY GUIDE

JULY 2023

**Education Foundation**

## TEACHER SUPPLY DEPOT

Donate Now through July 30

Supplies can be dropped off at First Baptist Church in the Garden Room (Level 2).

- Binder Clips	- Erasers for Dry Erase Boards
- Manilla Paper	- Poster Board
- Binders - 1" and 2"	- Expo Dry Erase Markers
(White, Blue or Black)	- Push Pins/Tacks
- Notebook Dividers	- Glue in Bottles
- Card Stock	- Rubber Bands
- Notebook Paper	- Glue Sticks
(Wide Ruled)	- Scissors
- Colored Pencils	- Hand Sanitizer
- Paint	- Sharpies
- Construction Paper	- Highlighters
- Paper Clips	- Staples & Staplers
- Copy Paper (White)	- Kleenex/Tissues
- Pencil Top Erasers	- Tape & Tape Dispensers
- Crayons	- Labels (Various Sizes, Printer Friendly)
- Pencils	- Washable Markers
- Erasers	- Manilla Folders
- Post-It Note Pads	

First Baptist Church is collecting supplies for the Education Foundation Teacher Supply Depot for Clinton City and Anderson County Schools. Teachers will be able to go the Teacher Depot and pick up supplies they need for their classrooms.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH